Rail Link Line from Bidar to Gulbarga

3317. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey for providing rail link line from Bidar to Gulbarga, and if so, the outcome thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware that as a result of the laying of this link line, distance from Bangalore to Delhi would be reduced by 400 km., and

(c) if so, by when the said link line is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ):(a) yes, sir. A Reconnaissance engineering-cum-Traffic survey for a new BG line from Bidar to Gulbarga was conducted by South Central Railway in 1995. The results of the survey have revealed the cost of the 116 kms. long line as Rs.180 crores, with a Rate of Return of 3.5%

Due to the unremunerative nature of the project, the same was not found to be viable and could not be taken up for implementation.

(b) The saving in distance will be only 42 kms., and not 400 kms.

(c) Does not arise.

Study on Ecological Status

3318. SHRI YERA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any district-wise study has been done on the ecological status in the country;

(b) if so, when was this study done;

(c) the organisation which conducted the study; and

(d) the steps proposed to have an annual review in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIORNMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD: (a) to (c) The central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with the State Boards, National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation, National Remote sensing and other concerned agencies has taken up a scheme in early 1995 for preparation of district-wise Zoning Atlas in order to delineate ecologically sensitive areas, critically pollutted areas, flood prone areas, Prime agricultural lands etc. and to classify the areas including suitability for new industrial locations, taking into account related environmental factors. So far, 19 districts in 14 States have been selected for this scheme.

(d) The information maps of zoning Atlas are stored in a digital form to make any updating or modifications easier as and when a particular theme gets changed due to industrial activities, micro-meteorological variations, human settlements etc. Such a review or modification would be desirable once in five years.

Rail Route per 1000 SQ. K.M.

3319. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rail route per thousand square kilometre in the country as on date, State-wise and Zone-wise;

(b) whether it is adequate;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to increase the rail routs during the remaining period of the Eigth Five-Year Plan, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ):(a) Zone-wise statistics for rail route kms. per 1000